



March 4, 2024

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415.302.0110

San Rafael City Council  
1400 Fifth Avenue  
San Rafael, CA 94901

**RE: San Rafael Transit Center**

Honorable Mayor and Council Members,  
Sustainable San Rafael has been pleased to serve on the Community Design Advisory Group for the new Transit Center. The conceptual design before you tonight includes the following key elements needed for success, all of which call for continued community involvement to realize their full potential to create a welcoming gateway to downtown San Rafael:

- **Integrated transit operations** of both buses and trains on a single block. The flow and connections among providers will benefit from passenger input.
- **Distinctive paving demarking passenger areas** from bus zones, including quick and easy pathways between buses, trains, and amenities. Again, user input is needed to fully realize this concept.
- **A restored transit depot** including many historical elements from the 1929 depot. The dimensions, degree of enclosure, and interior uses merit further discussion with the public and historical advocates.
- **A landmark quality bus canopy** near Hetherton. Detailed design development and review are needed to assure the success of this primary gateway feature.
- **Integration of the multi-use path** North-South Greenway in a manner recognizing the primacy of passenger and pedestrian use of the Transit Center needs discussion. (See attached 12/13/23 letter and exhibit.)
- **Tall trees framing the Center** and setting a natural character. Plant selection will need careful review.
- **Avoiding more traffic congestion** by reconsidering the proposed new 4th Street intersection behind the depot and finding alternative car drop-off zones.

Thank you for guiding this important project to support transit service and create a compelling gateway to downtown San Rafael.

Sincerely,

William Carney,  
Vice President

Attachments: SSR 12/13/23 letter and exhibit



December 13, 2023

Raymond Santiago Principle Planner  
Golden Gate Bridge and Transportation District  
1011 Andersen Drive  
San Rafael, CA 94901

**RE: Transportation Committee Update on San Rafael Transit Center**

Dear Raymond,

Please convey the following comments for the Transportation Committee's consideration during its meeting this week. Sustainable San Rafael has appreciated the opportunity to work with the District during the years of public involvement in the conceptualizing, design, and review of the proposed San Rafael Transit Center. Much progress has been made towards an exemplary project at the gateway to downtown San Rafael.

We remain concerned that pedestrians and passengers need to be given priority in all aspects of the design, especially those relating to bicycle access. To that end, we strongly endorse the multi-use Option 3 presented at the December 6 public workshop for treatment of bike access at the public plaza fronting the east side of the restored Depot building. This option would integrate bikes and pedestrians in a single shared space, with signage and textured paving to signal cyclists that the space is predominately pedestrian, requiring appropriate speed and care to be exercised by all users.

The multi-use option corresponds with the multi-use bicycle and pedestrian path included in the 2008 SMART ballot authorization, which is fulfilled by the North-South Greenway multi-use path through San Rafael. The one block in the Greenway with the most pedestrian use should likewise be treated with the greatest respect for those on foot as they access buses, trains and the Depot that serves all passengers.

Thank you for your consideration and support of this option.

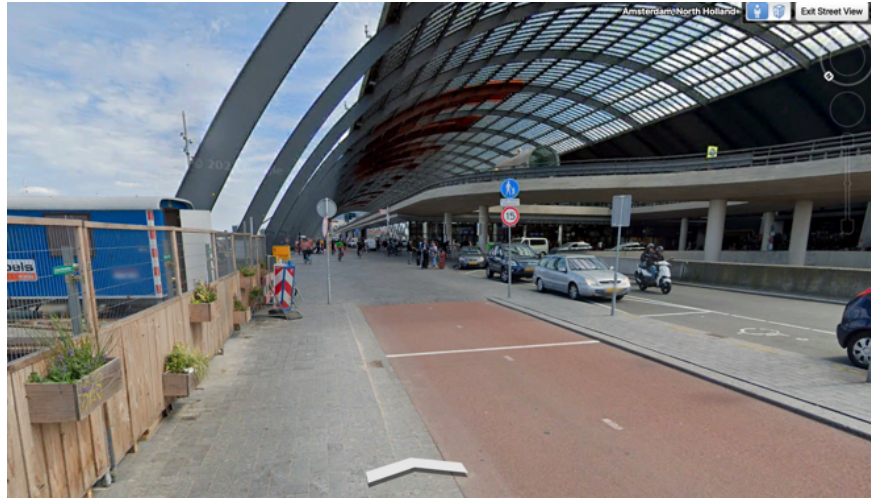
Sincerely,

William Carney  
President, Sustainable San Rafael

Copies:

San Rafael City Council  
Cristine Alilovich, San Rafael City Manager

## Exhibit A: Amsterdam train station



This photo shows the transition of a separated bike path into a heavily used pedestrian area, in which bikes and pedestrians share a single space. Signage and textured paving signal cyclists that the space is predominately pedestrian, requiring appropriate speed and care to be exercised by all users.